(d) The total number of small industries provided these loans by public sector banks during the last three years from March, 2005 to March, 2007 is as under;

| Year | No. of Industries |
|---|---|
| 2005 | 17.10 lakh |
| 2006 | 17.28 lakh |
| 2007 | 20.02 lakh |

**Fire at Income Tax Office in Mayur Bhavan, New Delhi**

777. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in Income-tax Office in Mayur Bhawan in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused thereby;

(c) whether the cause of fire has been inquired into, and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A fire broke out in Income-tax Office on 7th floor of Mayur Bhawan, New Delhi in the early morning of 6th October, 2007. It was put out by the Delhi Fire Service.

(b) The fire damaged/destroyed some Income-tax records, administrative records, office furniture and equipment.

(c) An FIR has been lodged with the Delhi Police on 6.10.2007. Enquiries are being carried out by Delhi Police. No report has been received from them so far.

(d) The outcome of investigation by the Police with regard to cause of fire is awaited.

**High rate of interest charged by money-lenders**

778. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that money-lenders, in rural areas are charging monthly interest rate more that 2 to 15 per cent to the poor and needy and many deprived persons commit suicide due to their inability to repay the money borrowed;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto, indicating steps taken for providing more credit facilities to the poor against nominal interest rate;

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken against such money-lenders with the help of various State Governments;

(d) whether Government is considering to bring any legislation for regulating the unorganized money lending sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, there are many reasons behind the suicides by the farmers. Excessive borrowing from formal and non-formal sources, social tension, continuous drought affecting the yield and their income, emerging changes in social